

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 170740
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY UNA:JFTEFFT

APPROVED BY UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

AF/S:DKEOGH

S/S-O: JETHYDEN

-----025244 212246Z /70

O 212136Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170740

EXDIS, NICOSIA FOR MAYNES

FOL RPT PRETORIA 3610 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 21 JUL 77

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3610

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF RH PINT

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH IAN SMITH

REF: A) PRETORIA 3489, B) PETTERSON/BOWDLER TELECON JULY 21

1. I SPOKE TO BOTHA ABOUT HIS TRIP TO SALISBURY YESTERDAY
WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 170740

1. HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN THE VISIT. SMITH DID
NOT WANT HIM TO COME UNTIL SUNDAY, JULY 24, BUT HE INSISTED
ON GOING YESTERDAY. HE WAS FEARFUL THAT HAD HE FOLLOWED
SMITH'S WISHES, SMITH MIGHT HAVE MADE STATEMENTS THAT
COULD NOT BE UNDONE.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TWO-FOLD:

(A) TO GET SMITH TO ADHERE TO HIS COMMITMENT

ON MAJORITY RULE; AND

(B) TO MAKE SURE THAT SMITH CONTINUES TO
NEGOTIATE ON A SETTLEMENT.

2. THE SAG WANTED REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT ON
BOTH POINTS BEFORE THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN STARTS
WHEN SMITH MIGHT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS RENEGING
ON OBLIGATIONS OR FORECLOSING OPTIONS.

3. BEFORE LEAVING SALISBURY, BOTHA CHECKED WITH
SMITH WHAT HE PROPOSED TO SAY TO PRESS ON HIS RETURN
TO PRETORIA (SEE REFTEL). SMITH WANTED TO ADD
"RESPONSIBLE" TO MAJORITY RULE. BOTHA REFUSED AND TOLD
HIM NOT TO BACKTRACK ON STANCE HE HAD TAKEN SINCE
KISSINGER INITIATIVE. SMITH DID NOT WANT TO INCLUDE
BLACKS IN STATEMENT ON RETENTION OF CONFIDENCE AND
SUPPORT. BOTHA INSISTED THAT IT APPLY TO BOTH.

4. BOTHA IS CONVINCED NOW THAT SMITH HAD TO DISSOLVE
PARLIAMENT AND CALL ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH PRIOR TO VISIT
HE DID NOT THINK SO. IN FACT HE HAD OPPOSED IT. HE
REALIZES NOW THAT SAG HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE CHALLENGE
OF THE RHODESIAN FRONT DEFECTORS.

5. THE THREAT OF MORE DEFECTIONS WAS REAL.
GROWTH OF THE RHODESIAN ACTION PARTY WOULD HAVE MADE IT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 170740

IMPOSSIBLE FOR SMITH TO GOVERN AND BRING ABOUT A
SETTLEMENT. IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO NEUTRALIZE RIGHT
WING DEFECTORS. ELECTIONS PROVIDED THE BEST VEHICLE.

6. SMITH ASKED FOR SAG HELP IN WINNING THE ELECTIONS.
BOTHA USED THIS TO OBTAIN THE COMMITMENTS HE WANTED
ON MAJORITY RULE AND CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS. HIS
TRIP TO SALISBURY SHOWED ELECTORATE THAT SMITH STILL
HAS SAG SUPPORT. BOTHA SAID THAT AS THE CAMPAIGN
CONTINUES WE CAN EXPECT SMITH TO USE THE SAG
CONNECTION INCREASINGLY TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT
HE AND ONLY HE HAS SAG SUPPORT. SMITH ASKED BOTHA
TO VISIT SALISBURY REGULARLY AND HE PROMISED TO DO SO.

7. SMITH IS UNDER GREAT STRESS. HE NEEDS TO REGROUP
HIS FORCES. HE MUST RE-EXAMINE RHODESIAN FRONT CADRE
TO WEED OUT DOUBTFULS AND COME UP WITH STRONG CANDIDATES
TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION. BOTHA IS CONFIDENT THAT SMITH
CAN WIN BIG. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT HE DO SO IF RHODESIA
IS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT SMITH'S INTENTIONS

ON AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND HOW THESE MIGHT BE LINKED
TO THE ELECTIONS, BOTHA AFFIRMED THAT ELECTIONS ARE TO
OBTAIN THE NECESSARY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. SMITH MUST GET
THE SEATS OF THE DEFECTORS BACK AND RE-ESTABLISH HIMSELF
AS THE UNCHALLENGED LEADER OF THE WHITES. HE SAW NO
CONNECTION WITH INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.
BOWDLER UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE170740
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFTEFFT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770260-0363
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770732/aaaabbjz.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c7cfea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 3489
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1786717
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH IAN SMITH
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SF, RH, (SMITH, IAN)
To: USUN NEW YORK NICOSIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7cfea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009